

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0803

April 13, 2018

Dr. Carla Hayden
Director
Library of Congress
101 Independence Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20540-0002

Dear Dr. Hayden:

I am writing to you on behalf of Mr. David Bromberg and Mrs. Nancy Josephson, two of my constituents, regarding the transfer agreement of their American Violin Collection (Collection) the Library of Congress (Library). A Collection valued at \$3.8 million.

Last month I wrote to your Director of Congressional Relations Office, Kathleen Ott, about this matter. I appreciate the very prompt response I received from Ms. Ott. Unfortunately, I don't feel it answered my questions. While she indicated that you would be happy to accept the Collection, there was no mention of the contract that exists between the Brombergs and the Library. I had also asked about constructive steps that might be taken going forward to ensure that the intent of the contract is carried out.

I recall the event where the agreement was announced and it was clear to me that your colleagues felt there was great value in the Library acquiring the Collection. In fact, the second "Whereas" in the contract states, "the Library deems it in the national interest to acquire the Collection for custodial care and appropriate service to the public, and is agreeable to purchasing the Collection for the United States under the terms hereafter stated." It was my understanding that evening that the Library staff and the Brombergs would move forward on a fundraising program to provide adequate funds to enable the purchase.

I realize that the activities that were anticipated under the agreement apparently have not moved forward as all had hoped. My constituents feel that they have tried to live up to the agreement and disappointed that we are moving to the end of the agreement without reaching the goal of ensuring the transfer of the Collection.

I suggested in my previous letter that the Library consider an extension of the initial transfer document or a new agreement specifying steps going forward. I believe the Brombergs would be willing to work with your music group and your development office to develop a plan that will allow the Collection to be preserved as a complete collection.

I want to clearly express my continued support of the efforts of Mr. Bromberg and Mrs. Josephson in their endeavor to bring to the Library of Congress this unique American Violin Collection. I urge the Library to go forward in the same spirit.

I have asked [REDACTED] a member of my staff, to look into this matter on behalf of Mr. Bromberg and Mrs. Josephson. If you have any question, please feel free to contact [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter; I look forward to your response.

With best personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator